湖住ふしぎ
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## #18 Last Dance之回

# Samurai Drive

## 人物紹介

character profile

A sword-fighting prodigy, and Haruma's master. Two years ago at only 23 years old, he was cruelly murdered. He was accused of murdering civilians just before his own death, and so fell from grace after he died.

A second year student at Shiseikan who holds the title of strongest swordsman, and Haruma's senior in apprenticeship to Seishirou. His great affection for Haruma somehow seems like a punishment since Haruma absolutely hates it.

A swordsman who attended a normal school in the Northern Kantou area. He is fighting alone to prove the innocence of his older brother Nobuchika. He dotes on his younger sister Itsuki.

He was Seishirou's comrade, and is now awaiting execution for the crime of murder.

Jin's reserved and well-mannered partner. He's known as the second best second year student. He has resolved to dedicate his life to Jin.

Second years who are called the "Twin Devils". On the left is the older brother, Chikara, and on the right is the younger one, Kazue.

A first year transfer student at Shiseikan. Haruma's (self-proclaimed) comrade. He's from Shiga, but moved to the capital because of his great admiration for Seishirou. He's living in the school dorms and has a part-time job to pay for his tuition.

An ermine that suddenly took up residence at Shiseikan one day. Haruma tended to its injuries and now it's attached to him. (?)

The main character, a first year student at Shiseikan. He's the strongest first year and is rumored to be the unstoppable swordsman "Shiro-yasha," akin to a demon and seeking revenge for his master. However, because he's always sleep-deprived and has catastrophic social skills, he's usually awkward at best. Will he take after Ibuki and learn just a little bit about human kindness...?

Haruma's classmate. He has a cool and composed personality, but is actually really warm-hearted. He's a big fan of Jin's, and is somewhat inseparable from Ren.

Haruma's classmate. He's straightforward and fiery, he cries easily, and truth be told, he lacks skill. Previously, Haruma also beat him.

Haruma's older brother. He's his father's right hand man in the Haitou faction, and is an instigator of the underground Haitou movement. He doesn't look kindly on his brother's admiration for Seishirou.

A mysterious swordsman who became involved with Haruma. Not much is known about him yet, but from the things he's said he is clearly suspicious.

## 物語荒筋 story line

The Haitourei in Meiji era was never enforced, and time has passed. Now, it's the Heisei era. Samurai still exist, but are deemed unnecessary in the current age. The Haitou faction uses its power against them with excessive severity.

In such an era, the 1st year Haruma Kokonoe attends "Shiseikan", the still enduring school of noble swordsmanship in Shibuya district. Two years ago, his master Seishirou Shindou was killed by an "assassin" and disgraced. In order to seek out the truth, Haruma teams up with Ibuki Takahara, a classmate who believes in Seishirou as Haruma does. Together, they continue looking for clues day after day. During autumn, the Haitou faction pressured Shiseikan to cancel its traditional event, "Shisei's festival". Although their recommendation was implemented, all the students united, determined to carry it out anyway.

Meanwhile, Haruma went to visit the man who holds the key to the truth about Seishirou's incident: Nobuchika Odani who is currently in prison. While he's there, he meets with Yoshichika Odani and they get into an argument that degenerates until both of them draw their swords...?!

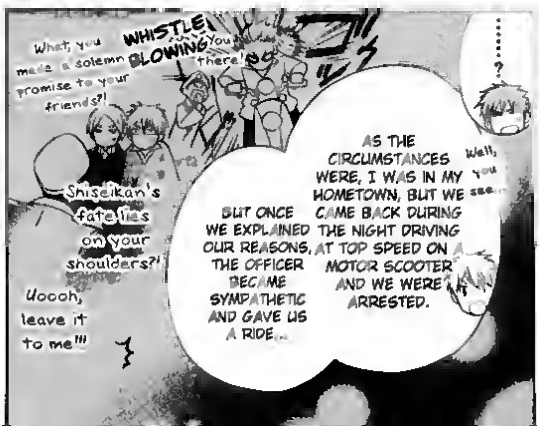
# Samurai Drive

Fujiko Kosumi

...THE OPENING OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD SHISEI FESTIVAL!
I DECLARE...
WITH THIS,
至誠祭
第一二三回
EVEN IF YOU TELL ME THAT
It's begun already!
HM?
WHAT THE HECK ARE THEY DOING?!
NOT HERE YET
HEY, KOKONOE AND TAKAHARA ARE...?!
警視庁
!?

EH, YOU GUYS?!
BECAUSE WE HELD IT WITHOUT APPROVAL? CAN'T BE...
THE POLICE? DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE HERE TO STOP SHISEI'S...

WHA— WHY WERE YOU TAKEN IN BY THE COPS? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
And at such a critical time, during the Shisei Festival!
I RE-TURNED ...
I KEPT MY PROMISE. That's all
WITH A FRIEND
THAT DOESN'T EX-PLAIN IT!


What, you made a solemn promise to your friends?!
WHISTLE BLOWING
You there!
Shiseikan's fate lies on your shoulders?!
Uoooh, leave it to me!!!
AS THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE, I WAS IN MY HOMETOWN, BUT WE CAME BACK DURING THE NIGHT DRIVING AT TOP SPEED ON A MOTOR SCOOTER AND WE WERE ARRESTED.
BUT ONCE WE EXPLAINED OUR REASONS, THE OFFICER BECAME SYMPATHETIC AND GAVE US A RIDE...
Well, you see...
.....?

YES-SIR!
BUT TO HONOR YOUR WILL, MAKE IT A SUCCESS! DO YOUR BEST!
WELL THEN, YOU TWO! DON'T BE RECKLESS NOW!

And doing Shiga ⇔Tokyo by scooter in one evening is like impossible
EEH... EEEH?!
You got deep into it in many ways
Why were you in your hometown in the first place ?
THINGS HAPPENED.
BUT...
... THANKS.
WITH HARUMA,
YOU GUYS CALLED ME BACK.
LET'S DO THE SHISEI FEST,
ALL OF US.
R... RIGHT! BE GRATEFUL WE KEPT WAITING FOR YOU!!
YOU CAN'T DISAPPEAR JUST ABOUT ON THE EVE OF AN IMPORTANT DAY AND THEN BE LATE IN COMING! WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT YOU?!
Ow!!!
SHUT UP! IF YOU'RE SAYING THAT MUCH TO BUILD UP THE CLIMAX,
THERE MUST BE SOOO MANY VISI-TORS IN ALREADY, RIGHT?!
HAH! AREN'T YOU UNDER-ESTIMATING US?! COME HERE!
EEH, FOR REAL?
There's that many?
OH YEAH! BEHOLD AND BE AWED! IT'S ALMOST LIKE A DREAM!

THIS...
...GREAT DISASTER.
WHA—
Has been standing up for 3 hours already
Guide who's spacing out working
Waiter with nothing to do
2-3
Please come to Shiori's Festival
Come and enjoy
Oh my swordsmen! Let's go over there
Kya
BUT LISTEN TO THIS:
EARLIER, WE PUT IN OUR BEST EFFORT TO GATHER PEOPLE HERE!
Ah
BUT STILL, BEING A SWORDSMAN IN THESE COLD TIMES IS IMPOSSIBLE...
WE'RE SORRY, REALLY WE ARE, WE WANT TO DISAPPEAR ALREADY.
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT!!!
Better still poke us with a sword
There's not a single person!

EVEN THOUGH SHISEI'S FESTIVAL IS OUR SCHOOL'S ACHIEVEMENT AND TRADITION...
E-EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT BE THE LAST ONE, AT THIS RATE...
ROKU-SHOU...
AT THIS RATE, I CAN'T FACE THE SENPAI AND PRESIDENT MINAMOTOOO!
"WHAAAAH
D-DON'T CRY RO-KUSHOU!
.....
カシャ
ン
ポロッ
...
IBUKI.
HM?
OOH?
Children?
What's this about?
...?
SFX STARE HARD
Looked at him and saw his mean glare.
Ah
HEY, HARUMA!
SFX STARE

AH, COULD IT BE...!
WHAT'S UP, LITTLE ONES?
You're from the neighborhood
DID YOU COME TO PLAY?
YOUR PAPA AND MAMA TOLD YOU TO COME AND CHECK THINGS OUT HERE?
They're just kids.
NO, THEY'RE JUST SCOUTING THINGS OUT.
EH, FOR REAL?!
Great with children
Ah
Enough
Okay, let's forget that, just come here
HEY-

!!!
AND HIDE!
!!!
TRUTH IS, TODAY, PEOPLE WHO COME TO SHISEIKAN...
!!
...WILL GET TO EAT A LOT OF DELICIOUS FOOD AND DO A BUNCH OF FUN THINGS.
Here, I'll let you have THIS as a special gift
AAH, IT'S TOO BAD.
?
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE NOBODY KNOWS IT?
Hah
Right?
!
RIGHT!
YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S REALLY TOO BAD!
.....

IF WE COME HERE,
CAN WE MEET THE BEASTIE?
the beastie
Kokonoe.
Please,
... YOU CAN ...
... MEET HIM.
ONLY ...
... TODAY.
WAIT, WE'LL COME BACK SOON!!!
HEY.
Bring a lot of people along, all right??

GEH, THE SENPAI!
WHAT?!
THE SWORD IS HATED BY THE WORLD. EVERYONE'S SCARED! WE HAVE TO MAKE PEOPLE COME TO US, AND SHOW THEM THAT IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT? THERE'S NO MEANING TO IT IF WE MISS OUR ONLY CHANCE TO LET THEM SEE IT!
Geeh TAKA-HARA!
AREN'T YOU THE ONES UNDERES-TIMATING THIS?
SHISEI'S FESTIVAL ISN'T JUST SOME CARNIVAL PLAYGROUND!
FRESHMEN! AREN'T YOU TAKING OUR TRADI-TIONS LIGHTLY?!
THEIR REASON FOR COMING DOESN'T MATTER.
WE NEED TO BEHAVE IN A WAY THAT WON'T LEAD TO US BEING HATED, AND THAT WILL HELP US GATHER PEOPLE HERE!
WE DON'T WANT THIS FESTIVAL TO BE THE LAST, RIGHT? SO...
IN THE END, IF SHISEI'S FESTIVAL CAN MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND THE MERITS OF THE SWORD, THEN GREAT. LET'S DO THAT BY OURSELVES!

UH...
THE FRESH-MEN!
FOLLOW THEIR LEAD!
... touch a sword!
Shiseikan's the only place where you can...
There's an idiot...
An idiot...
... Shiseikan's princes.
Come and meet...
Come see the best and coolest of Shiseikan!
Oh my
Kya
Kya
Come eat.
Delicious food!
Here.

THE FESTIVITIES ARE MOSTLY GOING WELL.
Nadeshiko GP starts at 4PM
Welcome to the Warring States Café
Thanks!
Eh
AND...
... SHISEIKAN'S STUDENTS ARE UNEXPECTEDLY EARNEST IN DOING THIS.
I THOUGHT TAITOUSHA GATHERINGS WOULD JUST BE SCARY.
SHOULD WE STAY UNTIL THE END TO WATCH THE LAST MAIN EVENT, THE SWORD DANCE?
Fue?
IN GENERAL, I'D ESTIMATE IT TO BE MOST SUCCESSFUL.
Uuh
I'B SHO GLAD...
HICCUP
NOT YET.

*LET ME SEE LET ME SEE

... OH YEAH, KANEDA'S LATE.
EEH? AAH, YEAH!
YOU'RE RIGHT, WHAT'S HE DOING?!
scary
The naivety of children is scary!!
BUT YOU KNOW, WHY ARE SWORDSMEN HATED SO MUCH?
YOU BIG BROTHERS ARE ALL NICE PEOPLE.
YOU DON'T KNOW? THERE WAS THAT BAD GUY! HE DIED THOUGH.
.....
THAT GUY WAS BRAGGING THAT HE'D "BRING MORE PEOPLE THAN ANYONE!"...
EVERY-ONE...
!
... ERR KANEDA!
WHOA?!
Nice timing!
I, HAJIME KANEDA, CAME BACK SAFELY...!

WOW, THAT'S A LOT OF PEOPLE!
My esteem for you just shot up!
YES,
THEY CALLED OUT TO ME WHILE I WAS GOING AROUND AND I GLADLY ACCEPTED TO SHOW THEM THE WAY HERE TO SAVE THEM THE TROUBLE.
THEY'RE HERE TO STOP US.
ALL OF THEM ARE FROM THE HAITOU FACTION.

MORON!!!
KANEDA, YOU BASTARD!
BONK
GYAMPH!
YOU...
oh
Tee...
Teehee?

EVERYONE, THE SHISEI FESTIVAL IS SUSPENDED IMMEDIATELY!
ALL CIVILIANS, EVACUATE QUICKLY!
HURRY UP!
KYAH!
HEY! STOP IT, DON'T BE ROUGH!
THE HAITOU FACTION ...?
!?
HAA?! EVACUATE, HE SAYS...
!

A—
AND YOU TOO, HANDS OFF YOUR KATANA!
DO YOU INTEND TO TURN YOUR SWORD AGAINST A CIVILIAN?
HA?! I DIDN'T MEAN ...
I BARELY TOUCHED IT!
AREN'T YOU KEEPING WATCH ON US MORE THAN IS WARRANTED?
SOME-HOW...
OF COURSE NOT! YOU'RE A GATHERING OF PEOPLE BEARING SWORDS THAT IGNORED ORDERS AND HELD AN UNAUTHORIZED MEETING!
MOREOVER, YOU EVEN INTENDED TO DRAW AGAINST US.
ARE YOU EVEN AWARE OF IT?!
YOU ARE NOW REGARDED AS DANGEROUS ELEMENTS THAT MUST BE PUT UNDER CONTROL!

WHA...
YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH.
WOULD YOU LEAVE THE REST TO US?
EVERYONE OF THE HAITOU FACTION.

A TAITOU-SHA...?!
WHY IS A SWORDSMAN TOGETHER WITH THE HAITOU FACTION?
THEY ARE DIFFERENT FROM YOU.
WE, WHO GRIEVE TO SEE THE TYRANNICAL WAYS OF THE TAITOUSHA OF LATE, ARE LENDING OUR POWER TO THESE PEOPLE FROM THE HAITOU FACTION.
FROM THE FIRST, SHISEIKAN'S CORE PROVED TO BE AN IRREPRESSIBLE SOURCE OF PROBLEMS.
IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT THOSE FROM THE HAITOU FACTION WOULD BE WORRIED.
SINCE WE, AS SWORDSMEN, HAVE A STANDPOINT IN COMMON...
... I COULDN'T OVERLOOK YOUR CONDUCT HERE IN SHISEIKAN.
WHY, AT ANY RATE, THAT EVIL HERO SEISHIROU SHINDOU WAS PRODUCED HERE.
!

SEISHIROU WASN'T...
BOTH SEISHIROU SHINDOU AND US,
WE AREN'T LIKE THAT!!!
... HIS WAY OF DOING THINGS MIGHT HAVE BEEN WRONG, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN ALL OF HIS IDEAS WERE MISTAKEN...
IBUKI.
I CAN'T ...
... LET YOU DISHONOR THE SWORDSMAN'S NAME ANYMORE WITH THOSE RECKLESS REMARKS.
THE SWORDSMAN'S DISGRACE IS BROUGHT DOWN BY SWORDSMEN.
MEANING YOU WON'T LISTEN TO US, HUH?

OH NO, LET'S GO HOME ALREADY ...
I'll pass on all that trouble! Yeah.
WAIT A...
EVERYONE, EVACUATE QUICKLY.
NOW, DON'T WORRY,
LEAVE EVERYTHING TO US.
KYA-AH
COME QUIET-LY!
LET GO!
STOP!
... WAS TO MAKE THE SHISEI FESTIVAL A SUCCESS!
DON'T! IF YOU DRAW, IT'LL PLAY INTO THEIR HANDS!
WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT! ALL WE WANTED...
SHIT, WHY?

WHA...
BIG BROTHERS DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, SO WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
ぼか
Hey!
STOP IT, IT'S DANGER...
YOU'RE THE ONES WHO LOOK LIKE THE BAD GUYS!
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU BULLIES!
MOVE!
KUH.
YOU'RE ...
... IN THE WAY!

BIEE...
Haha
NOW WHERE ARE THE SWORDSMEN WHO'RE CAUSING A DISTURBANCE?
!
IF THAT'S WHAT THEY WANT, I'LL TAKE THEM ON!
NO, DON'T DRAW!
WE SHOULDN'T BE THE ONES TO LAY A HAND ON THEM!
Haa?!
THEN WHAT DO WE DO?
AH.
AA-AH!
He's drawing!

!?
Y...
YOSHICHIKA
ODANI?!

... AND...
GEH! ODANI'S GANG!
EVEN ITSUKI-CHAAAN!
WHY...?
... GA- PEOPLE ... THERED FOR SHISEI FEST.
EVERYONE IS DESPERATE TO PROTECT THE SWORDSMEN.
SHISEI FEST'S SUCCESS...
... WILL OPEN A FUTURE FOR THE SWORDSMEN, RIGHT?

I DEMAND TO KNOW!!!
YOU ALL...
!!
YUKARI ...
HARUMA-CHAN, SORRY I'M LATE!
KASUGA-SAN! And former friends.
WHERE IS THE PIECE OF TRASH WHO LAID A HAND ON MY HARUMA!
Odani-san's not being honest, huh.
Itsuki go out alone, shit.
No way I'd let
IBUKI.
EVERYONE... YOU GATHERED PEOPLE HERE? FOR OUR SAKE...?

ERI... NA!
... IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
I SAW YA JUST NOW.
YOU, WHO USED TO COME TO BLOWS RIGHT AWAY,
HAVE CHANGED SO MUCH.

...
YEAH.
THANKS TO YOU AND EVERYONE.
WEEELL THEN,
I'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOOD FEELING.
あああああ
YOU'RE THINKING YOU'RE JUST LOWLY DOGS WHO WERE LEFT BEHIND TO CLEAN UP THE MESS, AND THAT YOUR OPINION ABOUT IT WON'T BE WORTH SQUAT.
LEMME TELL YOU WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND.

IS IT ALL RIGHT ...?
In many ways—
We might be blamed for this or something—
GO ON.
ガキャ
!!
OSYA
Hi!
ゆう
EH...
A LOT OF PEOPLE MAY BE GONE,
BUT WE, AT THE VERY LEAST, SAW EVERYTHING YOU DID.
IF YOU'VE GOT THE RESOLVE, THEN FORGET ABOUT QUITTING FROM JUST THAT MUCH.

LET'S CONTINUE, THEN!!!
SFX: OOH!)
Fufu, teach her very attentively, will ya?
Is it your first time holding a real one?
Oh, of course
WE'RE BACK!
WEL-COME TO SHISEI'S FESTIVAL!
鍛冶屋
AS YOU CAN SEE, A KATANA HAS TO BE HAMMERED OUT LIKE THIS.
Awright! Up!
He's a pro!
SFX: EEH
It's my first time seeing it.
Wow!

第54回
ナデシ
GrandP
THE ULTIMATE WINNER, PRINCE OF NADESHIKO ...
... IS THE SOPHOMORE OUJI-KUN FROM CLASS 3!!!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
EH.
BIG BROTHER IBUKI IS CUTE!
Aren't we just average compared to that guy?!
WAS THERE EVEN A POINT TO US PUTTING ON WOMEN'S CLOTHES?!
Practice exhibition
I'd like to join in

... THAT SHISEI'S FESTIVAL ...
... IS AN IMPORTANT EVENT WHERE YOU CAN CONVEY YOUR SWORD'S HEART,
SHISEI FESTIVAL'S MAIN EVENT, THE "SWORD DANCE", WILL NOW BEGIN!
AN EVENT THAT HE WANTS TO PROTECT ,,
ONCE, SEISHIROU SAID...
... AND THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO WATCH ME STANDING THERE TOO SOMEDAY.
THIRD PARTICIPANT: THE FRESHMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE, HARUMA KOKONOE!

SINCE SEISHIROU HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM ME,
WHEN I WAS ALONE, I THOUGHT I DIDN'T CARE.
BUT...
...NOW,
I AM STANDING HERE.
THANKS TO MANY PEOPLE,
BEAUTIFUL.
YEAH.
"SWORDSMEN WOULD ONCE BUILD UP THEIR RESOLVE TO GO TO WAR BY PERFORMING A SWORD DANCE, THEY SAY.
SOMEHOW, IT'S ENTICING.

SEISHIROU,
I WONDER IF YOU'RE WATCHING FROM WHEREVER YOU ARE.
WHILE I WATCHED THAT BOY, I FELT LIKE HE JUST MIGHT CONVEY IT TO ME.
AREN'T YOU GLAD WE STAYED TILL THE END?
YEAH!...
And so we...
3rd year – Tasuku Serizawa
Excellent performance 2nd year – Chikara Souma
Best performance 1st year – Haruma Kokonoe
... were acclaimed with a thunder of applause...
... as the curtain fell on Shisei's Festival.
WELL DONE.

... SEISHIROU...
... IS TABOO ...
YOU INTEND TO APOLOGIZE, YOU BASTARD?

AAH, THE DANCE PERFORMANCE WAS SO HEARTFELT, I THOUGHT THE WOMEN WOULD NEVER STOP SQUEALING! HOW DID YOU FEEL?!
MY FEELINGS ...
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE IF THEY REACHED SEISHIROU.
Hah

CONGRATS ON YOUR WIN,
IBUKI.

.....
I'll just wind it more!
DON'T HOLD YOURSELF BACK LIKE IT'S A FORBIDDEN WORD!
THAT'S NOT IT! THERE'S NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE!

WHY DID YOU...
AH?
... THEN... ... I'LL ASK.

BACK THEN,
Both Seishirou Shindou and us
We aren't like that!
WHY DID YOU DEFEND EVEN SEISHIROU?
...
AAH...
THAT WAS... WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT I SAID.
NO MATTER THE REASON, SEISHIROU-SAN KILLED PEOPLE, AND I DON'T BELIEVE IN HIM ANYMORE.
THAT'S...
...SEISHIROU'S PATH I TOOK FOR THE SAKE OF "SINCERITY".
THAT FACT DOESN'T CHANGE, EVEN IF HIS OPPONENTS WERE EXTREMISTS. IT'S ABSOLUTELY UNFORGIVABLE.
BUT...
.....
... I THOUGHT ...
... THAT THE THINGS HE TAUGHT ME...
THEY REALLY WEREN'T MISTAKEN.

# Samurai Drive

Shouja Sense

Volume 5 Chapter 18

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